



In Search of ... Metasearch Tools

An Introduction to Metasearching

**Lillian Woon Gassie
Senior Systems Librarian
Naval Postgraduate School
Monterey, Ca.**



Agenda



- Introduction
- Cutting through the jargon
- How does metasearch work?
- Metasearching issues
- What is available in the market?
- What is coming up?



Introduction



- Practitioner's guide to metasearching
- Overview
- Tips



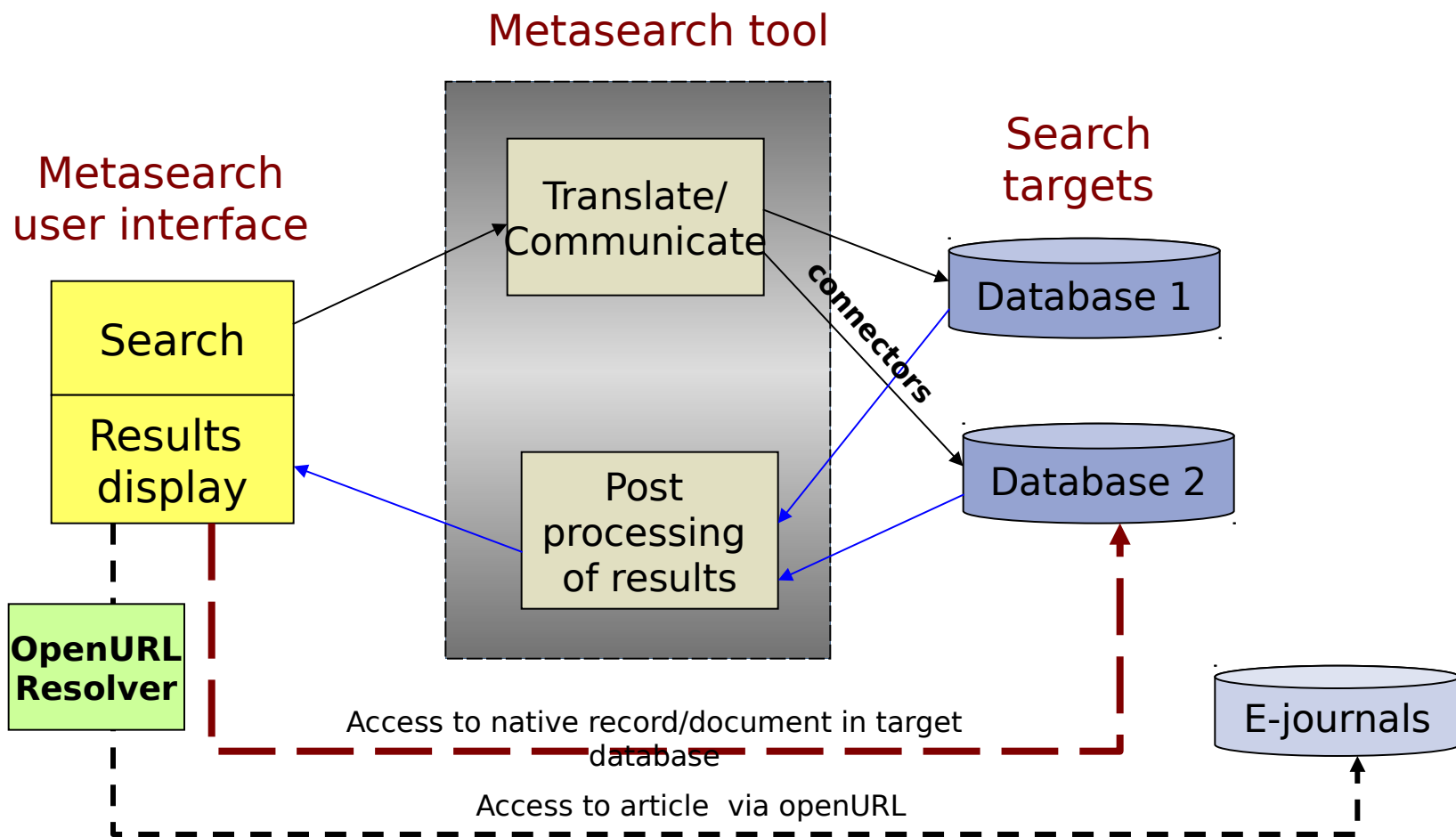
Cutting Through the Jargon

- Broadcast searching
- Parallel searching
- Cross-database searching
- Metasearching
- Federated searching

One simultaneous search/access to multiple databases or information sources irrespective of search engine protocol, platform, product or vendor.

- Not a search engine
- Not an index or “union catalog”

How Does Metasearching Work?





User interface issues

- How far can the user interface be customized?

Metasearch user interface

- Simple/advanced search forms

- Group databases by

The collage illustrates different search interface designs:

- Search All Databases:** A simple search bar with a single input field.
- Search:** A search bar with checkboxes for "Web", "Journal s", and "Books".
- Search:** A search bar with dropdown menus for "Title" and "Author", and input fields for "gene" and "rober".
- Search:** A search bar with a dropdown menu for "Science & Engineering" and a list of databases: IEEEExplore, ProQuest Science & Technology, and Web of Science.
- Search:** A search bar with a dropdown menu for "Social Sciences" and a list of databases: Psychology Abstracts, Social Sciences Abstracts, and POPLINE.
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- Embedded search

- User-

- Save

- Program



Metasearching issues

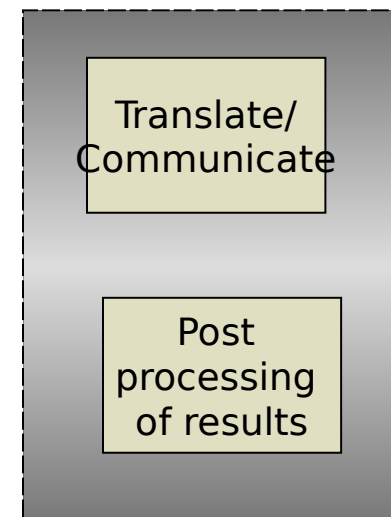
■ Translation/Communication

- Accuracy
- Speed
- Authentication & firewalls
- Advanced searching

■ Post Processing

- Deduping
- Sorting/Filtering
- Ranking

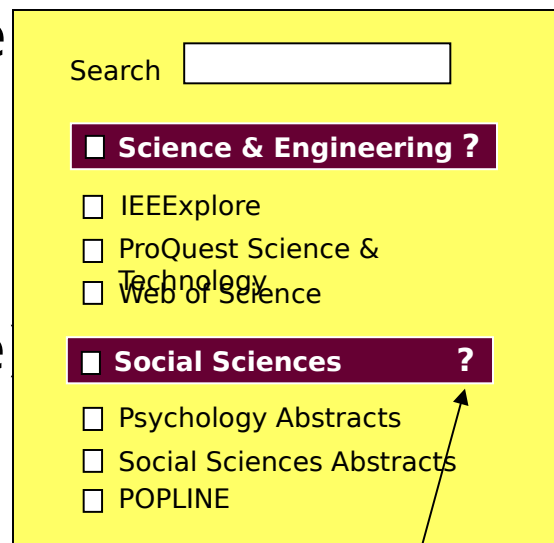
Metasearch tool





Database issues

- General overview of what's available on a topic in multiple databases vs. replacement of native search
- Sub-databases (by topic)
- Partitioned databases (by date)
- Educating users
- Usage statistics
- Impact on databases with limited simultaneous user licenses



Search

■ Science & Engineering ?

- ☐ IEEEExplore
- ☐ ProQuest Science & Technology
- ☐ Web of Science

■ Social Sciences ?

- ☐ Psychology Abstracts
- ☐ Social Sciences Abstracts
- ☐ POPLINE

Help file
describing
database scope
and coverage



Administration issues

- Resources needed to install, customize & implement
- Maintenance, esp. when target databases and search engines change, log review
- Customization
- Authentication
- Performance review
- What about sensitive/classified/proprietary databases?
- Charges for new database connectors





What is available in the market?



- Create your own
 - Can be costly in the long run
 - Must have a team of good programmers
- Library-focused metasearch vendors
 - MuseSearch
 - WebFeat
 - Fretwell Downing
 - Auto-Graphics



What is available in the market? (2)



- Metasearch tools by LMS vendors
 - EnCompass (Endeavor, [MuseSearch](#))
 - Horizon Consolidated Searching (Dynix, [WebFeat](#))
 - MetaFind (Innovative, [MuseSearch](#))
 - MetaLib (ExLibris)
 - One Search (Follett, [WebFeat](#))
 - SingleSearch (Sirsi, [MuseSearch](#))



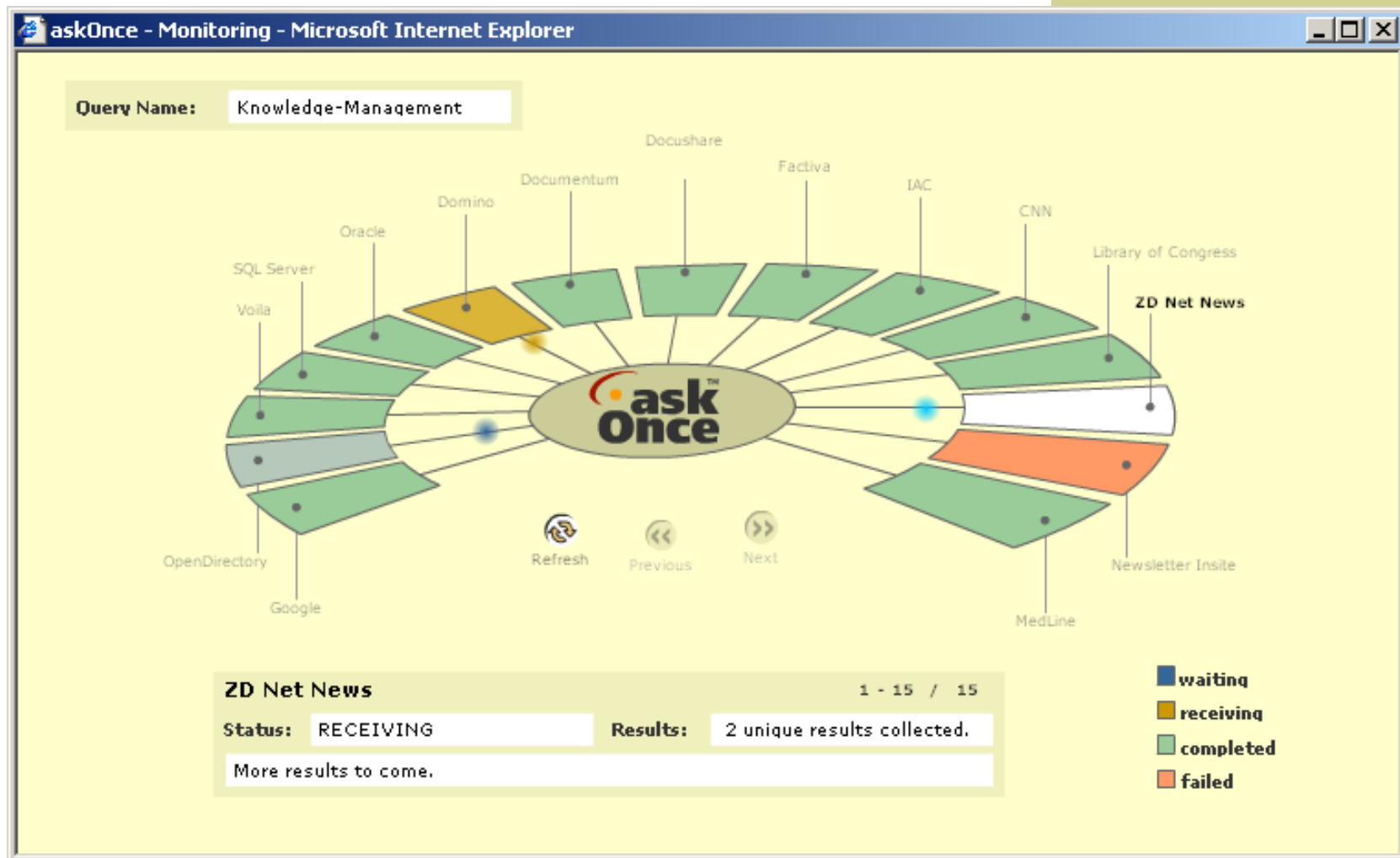
What is available in the market? (3)



- Metasearch tools for the corporate sector
 - askOnce (Xerox, France)
 - Copernic Enterprise Search (Copernic)
 - QueryServer (OpenText)
 - Vivisimo (Vivisimo, Inc.)



Screenshot from askOnce



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Screenshot from Vivisimo



Dudley Knox Library
Naval Postgraduate School

Vivisimo - Clustered search on emergency management - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Forward Stop Reload Home Search Favorites Media RSS Print Mail

Address http://vivisimo.com/search?query=emergency+management&form=FirstGovResults&collection_id=www&timeout=14000&v%3Asources=FirstGovAdvanced&x=32&y=14 Go

Links BOSUN EBIRD Google HSDL Intranet KP Library Muse Rooms Track me! MSN

company | products | solutions | demos | partners | press

FirstGov

emergency management search Federal sites Search Clustering by Vivisimo

Clustered Results

Top 160 results retrieved for the query **emergency management** (Details)

emergency management (160)

- Emergency Management Agency (65)
- Response (29)
- Emergency Preparedness (14)
- Operations Center (8)
- U.S. Army Corps (6)
- Management Information (6)
- DOE (5)
- Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (3)
- EMSHG, Emergency Management Strategic Healthcare Group (3)
- Emergency Management Specialists (4)

More

Find in clusters:
Enter Keywords Go

1. Federal Emergency Management Agency [new window] [frame] [close preview]

Skip navigations FEMA Seal FEMA.gov - Federal **Emergency Management** Agency Background image - Flag Background image...Employees Background image - FEMA Employees Disaster tab **Emergency** tab Education tab Media Regions Hazards white dots...

URL: www.fema.gov - show in clusters
Sources: FirstGovAdvanced 1, FirstGovAdvanced 3

2. FirstGov America Responds [new window] [frame] [preview]

...News: 9/11 Congressional Report Defense News Latest White House News Department of Homeland Security Be Ready for **Emergencies Emergency** Services, by State FAQs Privacy & Security Contact Us Suggest-A-Link Link to Us Official seal of the U.S. government FirstGov...

URL: www.firstgov.gov/Topics/Usresponse.shtml - show in clusters
Sources: FirstGovAdvanced 2

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What is coming up?



- Expect more vendors
- Consumer driven features with increased interest and demand
- Standards based on web services
- NISO workshop - The Next Generation of Access: OpenURL and Metasearch, October 29-30, Washington, D.C.

http://www.niso.org/news/events_workshops/MS-2003_workshop.html#agenda